

VETERANS UPDATE

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 10 OCTOBER, 2019

BOARD OF VETERANS' APPEALS - RECORD YEAR

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Board of Veterans' Appeals surpassed last year's record-high output for decisions.

The Board dispatched 95,089 decisions for Veterans and their families in fiscal year 2019, the largest number of decisions in the Board's history – 5,000 more decisions than the goal and 11 percent more than the Board's decision output in FY 2018, the previous record high.

"It was also a historic year for hearings held," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "The Board held a

record 22,743 hearings in FY 2019, a 38 percent increase compared to the number of hearings held in FY 2018."

This was in addition to implementing Appeals Modernization, a reorganization, and testing virtual tele-hearings.

The Board attributes its success to strong collaboration and customer experience across the department – with the Secretary, Deputy Secretary and Chief of Staff leading the way, along with VA's administrations, offices and programs areas.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 6, 12 - 1 p.m., Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration, classroom 3, 5th floor. Live music and food.

Nov. 6, 1 - 4 p.m., Veteran Business Ownership Seminar, classroom 2, 5th floor.

Nov. 7, 10 - 11:30 a.m., Veterans Day Observance, 5th floor auditorium. Women Veterans share war-time experiences.

Nov. 12, 12 - 1 p.m., National Day of Prayer for Veterans, 3rd Floor Chapel.

Nov. 15, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m., I AM NOT INVISIBLE Women Veteran Photo Project, classroom 3, 5th floor. All Women Veterans welcome.

Nov. 22, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Veteran Legal Assistance Clinic, classroom 2, 5th floor.

WE WANT YOU TO BECOME AN ORGAN DONOR

The Providence VAMC has joined New England Donor Services in a national campaign encouraging people to become organ donors.

A single donor could save eight lives and positively affect hundreds more! In fact, more than 100,000 people are still waiting for an organ transplant.

To learn more about how the organ donation process works, what organs can be donated and other facts about donation, visit <https://www.organdonor.gov>, or sign up as a donor today at <https://www.registerme.org>.



SPIRITUALITY AND MENTAL HEALTH



Dr. Marek S. Kopacz, from the VISN 2 Center of Excellence for Suicide Prevention in Canandaigua, N.Y., gives the keynote speech during the Providence VA Medical Center's Mental Health Summit Aug. 29, 2019. Kopacz reviewed research on the impact of spirituality on health outcomes, provided information on treatment approaches and discussed spirituality's role in suicide prevention and postvention. (Providence VA Medical Center photo by Winfield Danielson)

The Providence VA Medical Center hosted its annual Mental Health Summit Aug. 29.

The topic of this year's summit was "The Importance of Spirituality on Mental Health Outcomes and Suicide Prevention and Postvention," featuring keynote speaker Dr. Marek S. Kopacz from the VISN 2 Center of Excellence for Suicide Prevention in Canandaigua, N.Y.

A growing body of research suggests that individuals with

mental and physical disorders may experience improved health care outcomes when incorporating spiritual practices into their lives.

In his remarks, Kopacz reviewed research, provided information on treatment and reviewed spirituality's role in suicide prevention and postvention, and discussed how spirituality can be incorporated in daily practice.

More than 120 VA employees, Veterans and community partners attended the event.



U.S. Senator Jack Reed, left, and Rhode Island Director of Veterans Services Kasim Yarn, right, talk to Providence Journal Staff Writer G. Wayne Miller, who covers mental and physical health, at the Providence VA Medical Center's annual Mental Health Summit Aug. 29, 2019. (Providence VA Medical Center photo by Winfield Danielson)



Providence VA Medical Center

830 Chalkstone Ave
Providence, RI 02908
401-273-7100

Veteran's Crisis Line:
800-273-8255 press 1

Patient Call Center (PCC):
401-457-3336

Pharmacy Call Center:
866-400-1241

Office of Community Care
401-273-7100 ext. 3015

Account Balances:
401-457-3344

VA Benefits Information
800-827-1000

Website:
www.providence.va.gov

Facebook:
[facebook.com/
VAProvidence](https://facebook.com/VAProvidence)

Twitter:
twitter.com/VAProvidence